

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL



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Consultation

Proposed Amendments to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver and Vehicle Licensing Policies



November 2018

BACKGROUND

The Licensing Committee of Redditch Borough Council has resolved to carry out this consultation as part of its consideration of some proposals to amend the Council's current policies for the licensing of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles and drivers.

These proposals have been brought forwards as a result of the Council's ongoing dialogue with representatives of the hackney carriage and private hire trade in Redditch and are being considered with the aim of reducing reduce some of financial and administrative burdens that the existing policies create for both licence holders and the Council itself.

There are two main areas in the Council's current policies that this consultation will address:

- 1) The requirements for drivers to undertake certain training and assessments every three years.
- 2) The requirements contained in the hackney carriage and private hire vehicle licensing policies that set out the maximum age a vehicle must be when it is first licensed and the maximum age that vehicles can be licensed until.

Responses to this consultation can be emailed to enquiries@worcsregservices.gov.uk using the subject line "Redditch Taxi Consultation."

Responses can also be submitted via the post to:

Redditch Taxi Consultation
Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Wyre Forest House
Finepoint Way
Kidderminster
Worcestershire
DY11 7WF

The consultation will be open for responses until **31 January 2019**. All responses received during the consultation period will be considered by the Licensing Committee before any decisions are taken about which, if any, of the proposals will be implemented.

THE CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Redditch Borough Council is proposing to **remove** the following requirement from its policy on the licensing of **hackney carriage and private hire drivers**:

"With effect from 1st December 2017, holders of driver licences must undertaken refresher training in disability awareness and must pass a Driving Assessment test with Worcestershire County Council at least every three years."

Instead licence holders will only have to undertake these training and assessment requirements when they first become licensed or when a Licensing Sub-Committee resolves that an individual driver needs to undertake further training or assessment following receipt of relevant and verifiable complaints.

Do you agree with this proposal?

YES ☐

NO ☐

Please provide reasons for your answer above.

The Council's policy on the licensing of **hackney carriage vehicles** currently states:

"Applications for additional licences for Hackney Carriages will be granted only to approved vehicles which are less than 6 years old (72 months), meet the European "M1" safety standards and have facilities for carrying a disabled person in a wheelchair within the vehicle."

The Council proposes to **amend** the policy so that it states:

*"Applications for additional licences for Hackney Carriages will be granted only to approved vehicles which are less than **7 years old (84 months)**, meet the European "M1" safety standards and have facilities for carrying a disabled person in a wheelchair within the vehicle."*

Do you agree with this proposal?

YES ☐

NO ☐

Please provide reasons for your answer above.

The Council's policy on the licensing of **hackney carriage vehicles** currently states:

"replacement vehicles must be less than 6 years old (72 months) from the date of first registration of the vehicle as new by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency."

The Council proposes to **amend** the policy so that it states:

*"replacement vehicles must be less than **7 years old (84 months)** from the date of first registration of the vehicle as new by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency."*

Do you agree with this proposal?

YES ☐

NO ☐

Please provide reasons for your answer above.

The Council's policy on the licensing of **hackney carriage vehicles** currently states:

"Vehicles more than 9 years old (108 months) from date of first registration of the vehicles as new by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency will not normally be licensed. However, if vehicles are constructed or adapted to load and convey wheelchair bound passengers, they will be licensed up to 12 years old (143 months) from the date of first registration as new by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency."

The Council proposes to **amend** the policy so that it states:

*"Vehicles more than **10 years old (120 months)** from date of first registration of the vehicles as new by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency will not normally be licensed. However, if vehicles are constructed or adapted to load and convey wheelchair bound passengers, they will be licensed up to 12 years old (143 months) from the date of first registration as new by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency."*

Do you agree with this proposal?

YES ☐

NO ☐

Please provide reasons for your answer above.

The Council's policy on the licensing of **private hire vehicles** currently contains a requirement that:

"The vehicle is not more than 6 years old (72 months) on the day the licence is issued."

The Council proposes to **amend** the policy so that this requirement states:

*"The vehicle is not more than **7 years old (84 months)** on the day the licence is issued."*

Do you agree with this proposal?

YES ☐

NO ☐

Please provide reasons for your answer above.

The Council's policy on the licensing of **private hire vehicles** currently contains a requirement that:

"Vehicles more than 9 years old (108 months) from date of first registration of the vehicles as new by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency will not be licensed."

The Council proposes to **amend** the policy so that this requirement states:

*"Vehicles more than **10 years old (120 months)** from date of first registration of the vehicles as new by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency will not be licensed."*

Do you agree with this proposal?

YES ☐

NO ☐

Please provide reasons for your answer above.

The Council's policies on the licensing of **both hackney carriage and private hire vehicles** both contain the following requirement:

"Any vehicles up to the age of 9 years will be subject to two vehicle inspection tests per year; over the age of 9 years the vehicle will be subject to three tests per year."

Notwithstanding the other proposals set out earlier in this consultation document, the Council proposes **to make no amendments** to its policies insofar as they set out the frequency of vehicle inspections required of vehicles of different ages.

Do you agree with this proposal?

YES ☐

NO ☐

Please provide reasons for your answer above.

In what capacity are you responding to this consultation?			
Licensed Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Driver		Licensed Private Hire Operator	
Member of the Public		Elected representative	
Other (please specify)			

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